

Fatal Accident of a Sailor on board *Xie Hang 2 Hao* at Yau Ma Tei Anchorage

1. The incident

1.1 A fatal accident happened on board the Chinese registered vessel *Xie Hang 2 Hao* at Yau Ma Tei Anchorage on 26 September 2009. During discharge of containers using the derrick crane of the local licenced dumb steel lighter *Best Base 33*, the slings swung and hit a sailor on top of a container waiting for the approaching slings on board *Xie Hang 2 Hao*. He fell to the cargo hold bottom and sustained fatal injuries.

1.2 The investigation revealed that the main contributory factors to the accident were:

- the deceased did not keep a safe distance from the approaching slings and did not wear safety helmet at work; and
- the crane operator operated the derrick improperly rendering the derrick swayed rapidly.

2. Lessons Learnt

2.1 To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, the attention of owners, masters and persons-in-charge of all vessels are drawn to the following important advice:

- all persons involved in cargo operations must stay away from cargo slings by a safe distance as they may swing suddenly due to unexpected ship movements at sea;
- adequate and relevant training should be provided to crewmembers handling container cargo on board; and
- caution must always be taken during cargo operation to avoid heavy swinging of slings.